

LEDERLE LABORATORIES



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Dr Joshua Lederberg, President
Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Josh:

Thanks for the Russian article you sent to me on structure generation. I would have it translated, except that the English abstract indicates that the difficult problem of dealing with cyclic structures has not been solved. It is amusing to look back on those early DENDRAL years, remembering the excitement in participating in solving such problems, while at the same time realizing that such problems are really trivial compared to the problems we are trying to solve now. Meanwhile, others continue to beat away at the same old, and now somewhat dusty, problems.

I was curious as to why you added the comment "I miss you" to your note. In addition to being good for my ego, it does suggest that we might get together in circumstances that would be conducive to high level (perhaps even boarding on philosophical) discussions on some of the harder problems. In my current position my problems are structure/activity relationships and rational approaches to structure design. I would appreciate the opportunity for some very informal discussions with persons such as yourself and others at Rockefeller who might be interested in computer applications to these and related problems. My 18 months in industry have given me some new, though not necessarily profound, insights into such problems and it would be fun to discuss some of the difficulties involved in tackling such problems. I would be pleased to hear any good ideas you might have in setting up such a forum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis", written over a horizontal line.

Dennis H. Smith